

Development of Radiochemistry Education and Research Program at Jackson State University

Executive Summary:

With rapid growth of world population and mitigation of global warming, nuclear energy has become a promising sustainable energy supply. However, there are great needs in training and educating the next generation of radiochemists and nuclear waste safety specialists. In the past decade, there has been a significant decrease globally in radiochemistry teaching to undergraduate students. Moreover, underrepresentation from minority students including African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics continues to be a challenge for our nation. Jackson State University (JSU), one of the nation's 115 Historically Black Colleges and Universities with a Carnegie classification of "Research University with High Research Activities", is ideally positioned to fill this gap. The objective of the project is to develop a radiochemistry program at JSU to train next generation radiochemists and nuclear waste safety specialists, especially underrepresented African American students. The benefits of the program will be 1) to strengthen current programs in Chemistry and Environmental at JSU; 2) to train a diversified workforce for governmental agencies and nuclear industries.

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